

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 4 August 2026 from the Permanent Representative of
Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the pleasure to inform you that Denmark, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of August 2026, will hold a high-level open debate on the theme “Food under fire: the Security Council’s role in mitigating global and local food crises”, in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The open debate will take place on 25 August 2026 at 10 a.m.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, Denmark has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Christina Markus **Lassen**
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council ministerial high-level open debate on “Food under fire: the Security Council’s role in mitigating global and local food crises”, 25 August 2026

Introduction

Conflict remains the leading driver of acute food insecurity worldwide. Through resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#), the Security Council recognized the direct link between hunger and armed conflict and affirmed that conflict-induced food insecurity can constitute a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. Yet, eight years later, record levels of food insecurity and hunger persist, driven increasingly by conflict, violence and their reverberating effects.

Since the adoption of resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#), the full-scale war in Ukraine and, more recently, the Iran conflict have also heightened concerns about the resilience of global food and agriculture supply chains in areas that overlap with active armed conflicts. Disruptions to energy flows, fertilizer supplies, maritime trade routes and humanitarian logistics risk exacerbating food insecurity and hunger in countries already facing acute food insecurity and humanitarian crises.

The World Food Programme has warned that the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz risks pushing an additional 45 million people into acute food insecurity – or worse – if the conflict continues. This is on top of the 318 million people already facing acute food insecurity globally.

This comes in addition to conflict-driven famine conditions, which were confirmed in part of Gaza and parts of the Sudan in 2025, marking the first time this century that two separate famines have been recorded simultaneously. Other countries and regions such as Afghanistan, the Sahel and South Sudan have also seen deepening food insecurity.

Objective

Against this backdrop, the international community faces an urgent challenge: translating the commitments of Security Council resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#) into effective action.

This open debate will bring together Security Council members and the broader United Nations membership to identify concrete measures to prevent conflict-driven hunger from fuelling further transboundary instability, displacement and insecurity. The open debate will provide an opportunity to reaffirm support for resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#) and recognize the sustained impact of conflicts on food security, while considering new ways in which the United Nations, the Security Council and Member States can utilize this tool to mitigate hunger in an emergency, time-sensitive and prevention-oriented manner.

The discussion will also seek to identify how the Council can better respond when armed conflict threatens food insecurity, including in cases where its effects are felt far beyond the immediate area of hostilities.

It will ask how the good offices of the Secretary-General can be used to protect civilian food supply routes, both land and maritime, and how Member States, United Nations entities, international financial institutions, regional organizations and

private sector actors can coordinate more effectively to safeguard agricultural production and supply chains.

Guiding questions

1. How can the Security Council leverage the early warning mechanisms of resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#) to raise the alarm when regional conflicts pose a risk to global food systems, including through disruptions to energy flows, fertilizer supplies, land and maritime trade routes and humanitarian logistics and operations beyond the immediate area of hostilities?
2. How can the Security Council work to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of these regional – and local – conflicts for the most food-insecure and import-dependent and affected countries?
3. What actions are needed from Member States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional organizations and humanitarian actors to secure more resilient food systems and mitigate the impact of future geopolitical shocks on global hunger and stability?
4. How can the Security Council better support the good offices of the Secretary-General and leverage technical, operational and scientific expertise to protect global food systems and local markets at times of crisis?

Briefers

- The Secretary-General
- The Acting Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Carl Skau
- Civil society organization representative (to be confirmed)

Format and participation

The open debate will be held in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security" and will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Lars Løkke Rasmussen.

Member States wishing to participate should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires a.i., requesting to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE.

Registration will open at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 20 August 2026.

All speakers are requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.
